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Note: Part of the following was issued by The Hour as a special release, accompanied by photostatic evidence, to the New York press and news-agencies on Monday, January 15. See, for example, the New York Post for the same date, the New York Mirror and the New York World-Telegram (editorial page) for January 16, and the New York Times for January 17.

#### TIE BETWEEN COUGHLIN AND ARRESTED FASCISTS EVIDENT

Radio Priest Endorsed Christian Front and Cassidy - Other Men Charged With Plot Against U. S. Government are Known as Coughlinites

John F. Cassidy, president of the Christian Front, was among the 17 men arrested in New York on Saturday, January 13, on the charge of plotting an armed revolt against the United States Government. Cassidy has often declared himself a follower of Father Coughlin, but the Radio Priest, at the news of the arrest, hastened to disclaim any connection with either Cassidy or his organization. However, in his magazine Social Justice Father Coughlin has repeatedly mentioned and praised Cassidy and the Christian Front; the issues of the Royal Oak, Mich., weekly for July 24 and 31 are especially clear in this respect.

Page 3 of the July 24 issue described two meetings of Coughlin's followers held on Friday, July 14, in Philadelphia. To quote the Radio Priest's own magazine: "The voice of Father Coughlin came to Philadelphia through loud speakers from the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak. ... Father Coughlin praised the heroism and zeal of the Christian Front in those areas where its work has already borne fruit, and urged Philadelphians to emulate their Christianity and Americanism. ... Sketching the formation and growth of the Christian Front, Mr. John Cassidy of New York, head of the organization, pointed out that units of the organization are now in formation in several cities of the eastern seaboard."

Social Justice for July 31, 1939, carried on its front page the headline, "Christian Front Carries Fight Into More States." The story on Page 3 read: "Organized along militant lines, as a defense mechanism against Red activities and as a protector of Christianity and

Americanism, the Christian Front is spreading from Greater New York into Philadelphia, Boston, and other Eastern centers. ... Under the leadership of Mr. John F. Cassidy, of Brooklyn, there are now five central units operating in the metropolitan district. These are the Bushwick unit, headed by Peter Correale; the Luigi Rizza unit of South Brooklyn, led by Alfonso Mercorella; the Bronx central unit, headed by Albert Gunnison; and the central Queens unit under the leadership of Al Kurtz. Mr. Cassidy himself heads the Brooklyn central unit."

#### Coughlin Praised the Christian Front as "Franco's Way"

In his regular Sunday radio broadcast of July 30, Coughlin said: "The Christian Front is no longer a dream. It is a reality -- a reality that grows stronger, more courageous and more determined. ... The Christian way is the peaceful way until all argument having failed, all civil authority having failed, there is left no other way but the way of defending ourselves against the invaders of our spiritual and national rights -- Franco's way." In Social Justice for August 7 Coughlin's own account of his radio speech was entitled: "Father Coughlin ... Counsels Christian Front." In his weekly for August 28 we read: "Fr. Coughlin approved the fine principles of Christian citizenship espoused by young men of the Christian Front."

On October 25 the so-called "American Citizens' Committee" arranged in Brooklyn "Birthday Ball in honor of Rev. Father Charles E. Coughlin," the program of which mentioned as chief sponsors Rev. Edward Lodge Curran, honorary chairman of the Ball Committee; Dr. Patrick F. Scanlon, managing editor of the Brooklyn Tablet, the Committee's honorary treasurer, and John F. Cassidy, member of the Ball Committee. In his statement to the press last Sunday, January 14, 1940, Father Coughlin said that "following Oct. 25 of last year, they sent me a check of some \$1000 which I returned to them in a public manner, telling them that I would not accept any such kind of money and advocating my followers to have nothing to do with such organizations." However, there is no record in Social Justice of any such action on the part of Coughlin directed against Cassidy and his men. In the issue of November 13, on page 5, there is an article entitled "Fr. Coughlin Returns Check," but that check was for \$128 and not for \$1000, also it had come from, and was being returned to, the Christian Mobilizers headed by Joseph E. McWilliams and not to John F. Cassidy heading the Christian Front.

#### Disclaimed Tie with Mobilizers but not with Front

The Hour points out that recently, on a number of occasions, Coughlin did disclaim his connection with McWilliams and the Mobilizers, whose open tie with the Nazi Bund and openly violent acts in New York were too embarrassing to the Radio Priest, but that he had never until the time of the arrest of 18 men disavowed his endorsement of John F. Cassidy and the Christian Front.

In his speech of July 30 Coughlin asked: "What proof ... to indicate that the Christian Front cultivates a state of war in the



streets? None!" To this there is now an answer by the F.B.I. men, who found an arsenal of arms and recorded secret conversations among the seventeen men arrested on Saturday. The Hour points out that there is a curious approximation of the number of those arrested to the number of men making up a typical unit as advocated by Father Coughlin. In Social Justice for May 23, 1938, Coughlin advised formation of Christian Front " platoons," writing:

Let your organization be composed of no more than twenty-five members. After a few contacts with these twenty-five persons you will observe that two of them may be capable of organizing twenty-five more. Invite these capable people to do the very same thing.

#### Cassidy's Connections With Father Curran and Others

The front page of Social Justice for July 31, beneath the headline proclaiming the successes of the Christian Front, carried a large portrait of Dr. Edward Lodge Curran, president of the International Catholic Truth Society and one of Coughlin's chief agitators in the Eastern states. In addition to the Father Coughlin Birthday Ball, there were other functions and meetings at which Cassidy appeared on the same program with Father Curran. On December 15, 1938, both Cassidy and Father Curran were listed among the speakers of a rally staged by the so-called Committee for the Defense of Americans' Constitutional Rights at the Manhattan Opera House. Justice Herbert A. O'Brien was listed as presiding officer, and "Hon. Allen Zoll" as chairman. It was the same Zoll who in July, 1939, was arrested on the charge of attempting to extort \$7,500 from Donald Flamm, head of the radio station WMCA (see The Hour for November 18), and will soon be tried in New York. Other names on the program were: Dr. Patrick F. Scanlon of the Brooklyn Tablet, New York State Senator John J. McNaboe, Queens Borough President George U. Harvey, General George Van Horn Moseley, Colonel Walter A. Dawkins, Commander Jeremiah F. Cross, and others. Among the ushers was listed "Colonel John J. Prout," apparently Captain John T. Prout, Jr., of the National Guard, who was arrested last Saturday together with Cassidy as one of the plotters.

On January 25, 1939, Cassidy appeared as a speaker on the same platform with Father Curran in Prospect Hall, Brooklyn, addressing a meeting called by the same Committee as the rally at the Manhattan Opera House to cheer General Franco of Spain. On November 30, 1938, Cassidy was listed as one of the two speakers addressing a "Monster Mass Meeting" advertised to take place at the Star O'Munster Ball Rooms in the Bronx, New York. The leaflet advertising the rally began with the words, "Wake Up Americans!", and closed with the words, "Prominent Priests Will Speak." While Cassidy was stated to be a representative of the Christian Committee Against Communism, the other speaker mentioned by name was declared to be Fred Schroeter, 2nd District Commander, American Legion.

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NOTE: Data on Vonsiatsky scheduled for this issue will appear in the issue of January 27.

## WILLIAM BISHOP KNOWN AS A MYSTIC FASCIST

Cassidy's Co-Leader Active in Anti-Religious Work

William Gerald Bishop, co-leader with John F. Cassidy of the Christian Fronters arrested last week-end on a charge of plotting against the U. S. Government, is former editor of the American Bulletin, a mystic and fascist publication which he issued in New York in 1935 and early 1936. The Hour learns that Bishop published his sheet, and was engaged in other activities, in close association with Mrs. Anne Tellian, who is now in Nazi Germany. The pair were also connected with the American National Socialist League and its successor, the American National Labor Party. Other Nazis and fascists in those organizations were somewhat distrustful of Bishop, because he spoke German of such perfection that it was impossible to detect in it a single trace of any dialect or impurity. The rumor among New York's Nazis was that Bishop was not a German but a Swiss.

Bishop and Mrs. Tellian belonged to the Edda Kulturbund, a mystical anti-religious society based on the paganistic teachings of the late General Ludendorff and of that bitter Balt, Alfred Rosenberg, who, until Ribbentrop's recent ascendancy, was Hitler's unofficial foreign minister.

William Bishop (also known as William Bishopstone, William Brown, and William Arneck) was frequently seen in the German consulate in New York.

Malone's Tie With Van Nosedall -  
Graf a Strong-arm Man As Well as "Intellectual"

Of the other Christian Fronters under arrest, Frank M. Malone is known to have addressed a Front rally in Queens, in Saengerbund Hall, as recently as December 12. He praised Father Coughlin, denounced Mayor LaGuardia, and threatened the Jews. On March 23, 1939, he was advertised together with George A. Van Nosedall, Rev. Herbert Wheeler Lewis and others to address "a mass meeting for true Americanism," to be held by the Christian Crusaders for Americanism, Inc., at the Triboro Palace in the Bronx, N. Y. (for exposé of Bund-loving Van Nosedall and his Crusaders see The Hour for December 9 and January 13).

John A. Graf, together with Malone and a few others regarded as an "intellectual" of the Christian Front, combined his inclination to talk with some strong-arm methods. On a day early in 1939 he was seen sitting in a car with other men, all of them armed with brass knuckles, lead pipes and other weapons. The car was parked in front of Michael's Furniture Store, which was being picketed by another group of Christian Fronters. Graf's armed group was waiting for the picketing to develop into a riot, in which case Graf and his men were to jump into the fray using their "tools."

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## CASSIDY URGED TO IMITATE HITLER'S METHODS

## U. S. Fascists Stressed Military Organization

At a Christian Front meeting on March 10, 1939, Cassidy declared from the platform that in order for the Front to be as successful with its fighting units as Hitler was with his Brown-Shirts, it was imperative to imitate the Fuehrer. He announced that men applying for membership in the Christian Front were to be turned over to a unit leader in the street where the applicant resided -- a close parallel to the block-ward system in Nazi Germany. Military caps, with letters CF on one side and the sign of the cross on the other, were to be sold to members to be worn by the latter during street riots in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities.

The membership application blank of the Christian Front, among other questions, inquires as to the applicant's "Military Record." In our issue of October 28, describing the activities and program of the fascist White Front of Florida, we disclosed that in application blanks of that organization a man had to state what "military experience, motor vehicles and firearms" he possessed.

## Cassidy Lacked Military Record

As far as it is known, Cassidy himself lacked a military record although it was believed that his father had served in the Spanish-American War and had later worked in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Of the 17 men of the Christian Front arrested last Saturday, 6 have National Guard records, and 3 of these are on the Guard's active list.

On a number of previous occasions The Hour has pointed to the deliberate effort of American fascists to penetrate United States armed forces. In our issue for September 16 we wrote: "High government authorities are gravely concerned over the un-American efforts directed at the country's armed forces. This concern is justified when one recalls that such figures as General George Van Horn Moseley and Major General Robert M. Brookfield of Philadelphia have been exposed as having strong Nazi sympathies." The following officers were mentioned as being present at a Nazi celebration in Philadelphia: Major General Brookfield, Captain Albert J. Westerman, U.S.A., R.O.C.; Lieutenant William F. Geller, U.S.N.R.; and Colonel Albert de Propper. Some of these were in their uniforms; music at the Nazi rally was furnished by the First National Guard band of Philadelphia.

In The Hour for the same date we wrote of the military organization of the Christian Mobilizers: "The Mobilizers already have 200 storm-troopers who drill secretly and regularly under the command of a former member of the National Guard." In The Hour for November 11 we exposed criminal records of the former captain of the Mobilizers' armed unit, John Zitter (burglaries), and of his successor, John J. Olive (theft and rape).

